

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: December 22, 2017

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

City Offices will be closed on Monday, December 25th and January 1st to celebrate the holidays. We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday season with friends and family.

Residential Holiday Lighting Contest

The Cottage Grove City Council sponsored the Residential Holiday Lighting Contest and they also judged the nominations that were submitted for the contest. The contest was open to residents within the City limits and 22 nominations were received. The City Council judged the nominations on the evenings of December 15, 16, 17. Thank you to the Council for doing this monumental task, the judging was challenging because of the great nominations received.

The winners selected were:

- 1st Place – 1505 Jason Lee – will receive a \$100 credit on their City utility bill.
- 2nd Place – 1157 South 2nd Street – will receive a \$75 credit on their City utility bill.
- 3rd Place – 1808 South 4th Street – will receive a \$50 credit on their City utility bill.

Congratulations to the winners. Thank you to everyone that helped make the contest possible. The complete list of nominations is available on the City's web page.

National League of Cities Helps Local Citizens

The City of Cottage Grove participates in a couple of programs through the National League of Cities (NLC) that provide a direct benefit to residents within the community. One program is the Discount Prescription Drug Program. If residents use the Prescription Discount Card when purchasing prescription medication not covered by insurance, they can save an average of 24%. Citizens in Cottage Grove have saved \$1,653.42 in the first 11 months of 2017 for an average of 21.8 % savings. The prescription cards are free and can be picked up at City Hall and the Community Center or printed online by visiting www.caremark.com/nlc.

The other program available through the National League of Cities is the water and sewer line warranty program. This program provides an opportunity for residents to purchase optional warranty coverage on their service lines from the City water or sewer main lines to the house through Service Line Warranties of America. Most homeowners are not aware that they are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the water or sewer service line that runs from the City's mainline to their home. Over time those lines do and will fail. Protection for water lines is available through this program for only \$3.25/month and sewer line warranties are \$4.33/month.

Both of these warranties could save residents thousands of dollars if a repair is needed on any of the service lines. Residents can find more information or sign up for either of the programs by visiting www.slwofa.com.

Neither of these programs cost the City of Cottage Grove anything. They are available as a benefit of membership in NLC. Service Line Warranties occasionally mails invitations and materials to residents about the program, but the mailings and promotion are completely funded from the program. The City has even elected to not receive any proceeds from the purchase of the warranties which results in a reduction of the monthly program costs. Several homeowners in Cottage Grove have been spared the major expense of line replacement by using this program.

Water and Sewer Line Repairs

On Tuesday, the Utility Crew started the morning with a scheduled sewer line repair on Gateway in front of McDonalds. A 10' section of sewer line was to be removed and replaced. Before the repair was complete, a 6" cast iron water line on the 700 block of South 6th Street broke under the newly paved street. A second crew was mobilized to repair the water line. A 3" x 6' section of the street was excavated to make the repair. By 3:30 pm, both the sewer and water lines were repaired and all services were restored.

STEAM at the Library

This week the Cottage Grove Public Library hosted another great STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) hands on event and workshop for local kids, youth, tweens and teens. Check out our web site for more details on future STEAM events.

Rhyme and Romp at the Library

Rhyme and Romp, an interactive program for babies ages 0 – 18 months, has moved to Saturdays at 11:30 am. This is a great opportunity for new or expecting parents to learn about early literacy, meet other parents, and have fun exploring the world of reading with your baby. No pre-registration is required.

Lego Club at the Library

The Cottage Grove Public Library hosts a monthly Lego Club on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm. Kids of all ages are welcome to join us in 2018 for Lego Club.

Unleash Your Story at the Library

Unleash Your Story... stories one word at a time... is for teens in 6th through 12th grades and it's happening at the Cottage Grove Public Library on Wednesday, January 10th from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

"The Book Drop" at the Library

The Cottage Grove Public Library hosts "The Book Drop", a monthly book club for adults that meets the last Wednesday of each month at 4:30 pm. January's selection is "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren. Members of the community are invited to drop in for the book club at the Cottage Grove Public Library in 2018.

Quote of the Week

"Christmas waves a magic wand over the world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

~Norman Vincent Peale~